



1. Attendance and Apologies: As per attendance register
2. Welcome by President Simon Ford
- 2.1 Election of Chairman, Jeffrey McGeorge recommended by Committee and accepted by members
- 2.2 Chairman explains that only members highlighted in yellow on attendance register can be counted for the quorum. Minimum of 25 members required which was met. Moves for minutes to be ratified
Dee Jonsson (DJ) – Questions the timing of release of February minutes, saying that she only received those 12 hours before meeting which she finds unacceptable to expect members to have time to read through it. She states she had 12 points she wanted to contest.
3. Chairman invites Kristian Griffiths-Jones (KGJ) to present on developments at FNSW Refereeing Community
- 3.1 KGJ explains his role at FNSW, and here today to discuss changes in last few months
 - Progress Report – Working closely with branches to update all records on MyFootballClub (MFC). Aim to increase level 3 assessors with ~ 146 new assessors becoming qualified in last 3-4 months. GDFRA has approx. 100 referees registered on MFC, which needs increase to meet requirements by FFA. At FNSW, there are plans for a campaign to “Ref Football”, advertised in papers, branches and club websites. SMS was also sent to those yet to re-join according to last year’s records which resulted in a spike in membership. Possible competition to offer HAL GF tickets but details to be finalised.
 - Goals – Refs forum held in November 2014. To get over 5000 referees registered on MFC, currently 17% more registered that same time last year. Aims to get over 300 assessors.
 - Pathways – KGJ to revisit and further explain pathways program (RDP/NTP) at a later date.
 - RDP – Program has developed more referees progressing to NTP, and now with more coaches to mentor NPL1/2 16s/18s matches where possible
 - Schools Program – 11 schools involved, with 4 more in discussion. Up to 350 students involved, notably 50 at Kings and 23 at Homebush Boys. Programs proved to be great success, with some students progressing to officiate national school tournaments. Enrolments in School Programs to help with registrations at GDFRA. Overall goal to have 1000 students qualified
 - Granville – One of the best branches in terms of ratio of member to assessor. Also most assessments performed compare to other metro branches.
 - GDFRA Structure – Explains structure, similar to previous year, but appointments to be checked by Director of Referees (DOR) of GDSFA
 - Happy to answer questions with DOR
- 3.1.1 John Higgins – When was structure agreed?
 - 3.1.1.1 Steve Tonkiss – Mid January.
 - KGJ – Explains benefits of current structure – GDFRA remains and keeps history and continues tradition of development of great referees. Now a closer working relationship with GDSFA and cooperation towards joint goals.
 - 3.1.2 – Steven Prattent – Asks about Competition for HAL GF tickets to encourage referee memberships. Is it possible to aim competition at senior (adult) referees to increase coverage of adult matches?
 - 3.1.2.1 – KGJ – Yes there is the budget available. Currently 200000 players registered. During MFC registration, players were asked if they would be interested in refereeing programs. 20000 (10%) ticked yes.

- 3.1.3 – Chairman – Due to time constraints, we must move onto Steve Tonkiss, Director of Referees (DOR's) presentation, with further questions at the end.
4. Steve Tonkiss (ST) – Explains role as DOR and mandate for the role. GDSFA manages the game of football. There are incidents that happen in matches that parents complain to GDSFA about e.g. injuries, misconduct of players etc. GDSFA decided to appoint a Director of Referees (DOR) to work with GDFRA, not to take over, only to assist with recruitment, appointments and retention. Explains he is a 'conduit' between clubs and referees. DOR to work with GDFRA MC to discuss training and education and to report back to GDSFA board. Suggests reasons for referees leaving, which is a current problem for referees. Reasons include not being selected to higher levels (in referee's opinion), abuse by players, spectators and study or work commitments. DOR aims to meet with GDFRA MC on March 30 to discuss plans. DOR explains his view of referees, generally 2 types, those who want to progress to HAL, or those who want to work towards GDSFA PL. Verbal abuse of referees 'is not on' and DOR explains his zero tolerance for it. He plans to eradicate it by talking to clubs to help understand LOTG, but also to educate referees to limit mistakes. DOR states his role is to stop abuse.
- 4.1 John-Jack Rooney – explains his experience (30 years referee) and says the GDSFA never supported us (referees), and that referees are not believed when it comes to reports and players often get away with reduced bans. Asks what DOR plans to do and what his qualifications are.
- 4.1.1 ST – Level 2 referee, qualified enough to apply for any MC role.
- 4.1.2 Chairman – Point of Order – You can only apply for an MC role at GDFRA if you relinquish all roles with GDSFA
- 4.1.3 ST – Qualifications says I am qualified so am able to take on role of DOR. Explains his background in marketing and claims to be a national manager of a business. Says his ability to 'get things off the ground' is useful as DOR. Agrees with JR's point in 4.1, that referees are not getting deserved suspensions, and asks GDFRA members to report grievances to GDFRA TSC, who then reports to DOR. Hopes to increase suspensions as a result, and says he can be contacted directly and am transparent and open.
- 4.2 J-JR – What gives you right to overrule Appointments Officer (AO)?
- 4.2.1 ST - Structure of GDFRA agreed upon by GDFRA MC and GDSFA, says it is the way of the future.
- 4.3 Soheil Adabjou (SA) – Concerns about appointments. Is DOR to veto appointments and rankings? Suggests current structure is only agreed by GDFRA MC after it was 'backed into a corner'. Explains that GDFRA members have voted for an AO and Appointments subcommittee, to do appointments, so how can DOR overrule that?
- 4.3.1 ST – It appears some people here are against the structure
- 4.3.2 SA – Asks ST to answer question. How does DOR get right to veto an elected member and committee? Says ST has full control of GDFRA.
- 4.3.3 ST – I don't have full control. Says any changes to appointments will be with reason and in writing.
- 4.4 Brad Mitchell (BM) – Introduces himself and experience (was on GDFRA MC last year). Questions the increased 'red tape' and how it could improve efficiency?
- 4.4.1 ST – Can see where BM is coming from. Claims there are no changes, and those members of GDFRA still to go to GDFRA MC with issues. Appointments are done by AO, to be checked and only change by DOR if necessary and any changes to be expressed in writing. Reiterates his role as a conduit to GDSFA and any concerns at GDFRA, DOR can direct them to FA for discussion. I have referees' best interest at heart and not here to make enemies. Asks GDFRA members to keep refereeing as 'players deserve referees'.
- 4.5 Michael Weekes (MW) - Asks about zero tolerance on un-financial clubs, as there are 2 currently still un-financial from 2014. What are GDSFA's plans?
- 4.5.1 ST – Not aware of situation, will investigate
- 4.6 Simon Ford (SF) – Why was DOR role not advertised as others were suitably qualified? What are DOR's criteria to veto appointments?
- 4.6.1 ST – Criteria to be discussed with GDFRA MC. Not sure if/how DOR role was advertised.
- 4.7 Trent Kiner (TK) – Thanks ST for attendance. Asks about progress and initiatives to increase retention of referees

- 4.7.1 ST – Will meet with GDFRA MC to discuss.
- 4.8 DJ – Clarification – We can communicate to either Ordinary Member (OM) or Secretary before approaching DOR
- 4.8.1 Chairman – Members to contact either OM to address concerns

- 4.8.2 DJ – Explains 4.6 regarding advertisement. It is within GDSFA Constitution to appoint, and positions need not be advertised.
- 4.9 Wayne Kelly (WK) – Asks ST who approached him for DOR role
- 4.9.1 ST – Kevin Haines, Director at GDSFA.
- 4.10 Dale Bromfield (DB) – Asks ST his experience as a referee
- 4.10.1 ST – 5 years
- 4.11 DB – What is your experience with volunteer organisations like GDFRA?
- 4.11.1 ST- GDFRA is not a volunteering organisation, we are paid to carry out a service so therefore GDFRA are contractors to GDSFA. GDFRA is a business.
- 4.12 Chairman – No time for other questions but I will ask one more to ST before meeting is suspended until April Meeting. Asks about email sent on 21st December where GDFRA was informed that GDSFA MC voted to run its own referees division, and GDFRA was no longer required in 2015. Is that the case?
- 4.12.1 ST – Meetings were held with GDFRA, GDSFA and FNSW. ‘Line in the sand’ drawn on previous events and says it is time to move on with new agreed upon structure. Quotes Secretary’s emails that business is as usual dated February. ST states his preference to move on from past events.
- 4.12.2 JH – Wants to visit the ‘other side of the line’ as crux of the issue is the events leading to the Dec 21st email. States sticking point for many members is the appointments, and the issue must be revisited for any progress to be made
- 4.12.3 Chairman tries to suspend discussion, asking ST’s availability for 23rd April (April GM).
- 4.12.4 ST – Would need to check due to change in dates of GM, he had originally left 2nd Thursday of month free but it is now 3rd Thursday to accommodate School Holidays.
- 4.12.5 Chairman – will communicate with Secretary to possibly have another meeting.
- 4.13 David Lamb (DL) – Point of Order – We are here to resolve issues, I understand we are also here for the seminar but feel we should resolve issues now and delay the start of the seminar.
- 4.13.1 Chairman – No motions to be voted on today, but asks members to vote on whether they would like to continue with GM. Members vote to continue
- 5 President and Chairman outlined recommendation to amend constitution (see Agenda Point 5). Recommendation moved by JR and Jim Nicolaou.
- 5.1 DJ – Asks KGJ to clarify MFC registrations
- 5.1.2 KGJ – Very important to register on MFC, as it keeps records and qualifications. FFA uses these records in selection processes so it must be used.
- 5.1.3 SP – Important to note that members can pay however they want (Online with MFC or direct deposit with GDFRA), but MFC registration must be done.
- 5.2 DJ – Suggests MC should do their job and accept applications of members for 2015 membership
- 5.2.1 Chairman – Yes, this is why we have moved to extend the renewal date to keep referees ‘on the books’
- 5.3 BM – Asks MC for their position on the new structure at GDFRA. Do they accept it?
- 5.3.1 President – Yes it has been accepted. Yet to meet with DOR due to clashing availability. Business as usual and Trent Kiner (AO) will do appointments.

Meeting paused at 12:30pm for 15 minute lunch break.

Meeting resumes at 12:50pm

- 5.4 JM – Introduces himself and discusses his experience at GDFRA. Asks why we are arguing if the GDFRA MC, a committee the GDFRA members have voted to lead them, has agreed on a structure? There should be no more discussion on the structure.
- 5.5 TK – Asks for ST's KPI for appointments in 2015.
- 5.5.1 ST – GDSFA expects 100% coverage
- 5.5.2 TK – How can GDSFA expect 100%?
- 5.5.3 ST – KPIs are set by Board of Directors at GDSFA. Goal is a long term goal and from calculations only 7 more referees are required to get 100% coverage. Talks about new Level 4 courses and new members from those and School Programs are increase coverage. Discussion yet to be had on how to approach and work towards 100% coverage. Says I reserve the right to discuss with GDFRA MC first before reporting to GDFRA members. Says if GDSFA Board can add value to GDFRA MC, then they will do so, and that all parties will have input.
- 5.5.4 TK – GDFRA set a date for meeting, but claims ST could not attend
- 5.5.5 ST – Claims to have been available but not invited.
- 5.6 Peter Wilson Mosey (PWM) – Asks ST about abuse on referees. Says I am a 15 year member and witnessed incidents that should have had multiyear suspensions that were reduced to weeks. Asks ST how he plans to manage this?
- 5.6.1 ST – Sentences have been increasing in recent years since Kevin Haines' involvement. ST to collect data to present to GDFRA membership. Plans to educate clubs to stop abuse and says it is all about education to end abuse of referees.
- 5.7 WK – I'm a teacher and I can see many young members are bored. There is an MC meeting on 30th March as stated on previous occasions so why don't we let MC do their work and report back to us at next GM? Let GDFRA MC and DOR do their jobs.
- 5.8 JH – Asks SP to explain meetings that took place between GDSFA, GDFRA and FNSW
- 5.8.1 SP – As Chairman of TSC, he attended meetings between GDSFA, GDFRA and FNSW, chaired by Director of Football at FNSW. Structure was agreed upon by all parties, and stresses the fact that GDFRA will referee football on 10th April and to let current discussions continue between GDFRA MC and DOR.
- 5.9 KGJ – Says I understand appointments is a touchy subject. Explains process at NSWSLFR, where Appointments Officer John Bowdler does appointments for myself to check but he would only change AO's appointments if there are assessments or exchange programs running. Please give DOR benefit of the doubt
- 5.10 JH – Expresses agreement with GDSFA's move to create DOR role, but strongly disagrees with how it began but says we should move on.
- 6 Chairman introduced Senior Ordinary Member Dale Bromfield and Junior Ordinary Member Jarryd McFarlane and asks members to approach either for any issues.
- 6.1 JH – How is past president James Dolahenty?
- 6.1.1 Chairman – He is fine but not refereeing in 2015.

Meeting closed 1:10pm